1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

Hunan and Hupeh, ramie is also produced in comparatively large quantities, but the production data are not available. Liu-yang and Li-ling in Hunan Province are two of the places where ramie is made into grass-linen cloth.

VI. FISHERIES OF CENTRAL-SOUTH

Central-South China has abundant fresh and salt water fisher resources. The province of Kwangtung within the Pearl River Valley, and including Hainan Island, markets more fish than any other province of the region. Within the three-year period from 1950 to 1953, the Central People's Government has introducted a series of measures to support the fishing enterprises of this region. A fishery loan of over 53,000,000,000 Yuan ($2,200,000) is claimed to have been distributed throughout the province to help the fishermen to repair their boats, mend their nets, and purchase more gear. Ten large fishery markets were established in fishery centers such as Canton and Chungshan to stabilize the prices and to do away with exploitation by middlemen.[28] In 1950, the abundant catch of fish from the fishing banks of Tongking Bay alone was the largest in twenty-five years, yielding an

28. Current Background, Hong Kong; U S. Consulate General, March 1, 1954, No. 281, p. 15.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

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estimated 15,000 tons; in 1952, the output was again increased to over 30,000 tons. The Central-South China Region is also the main source of fresh-water fry for the entire country. In 1953 alone, the production of pond-bred fish amounted to 112,500 tons, which was about 67 per cent of the pre-war peak year's production of 150,000 tons.[29] During the first half of 1954, about 25,000 tons of fish were caught by deep-sea fishermen, an increase of 30 per cent over the catch of 1953. All of the figures quoted above are derived from Communist sources, and their accuracy may be subject to question. They should be considered with due caution.

VII. WATER CONSERVATION AND FLOOD CONTROL

A. The Nature of Floods

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For centuries the Chinese people have waged a stubborn struggle against the floods of their many rivers. Among them, the Yangtze, Yellow, and Huai rivers, which all run through the Central-South Region, are notorious for floods. Generally -- in spring and summer each year -- warm, moist monsoons blowing inland from the sea are met and held over Central China in the region of the Yangtze

29. Ibid.